

Tab 20

Proprietary School Certification Program Annual Report

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
December 7, 2022

BACKGROUND

Sections 173.600 through 173.618, RSMo, provide authority for the Coordinating Board to issue certificates of approval to operate to proprietary schools, defined as “any person not specifically exempted...which offers or maintains on either a for-profit or not-for-profit basis within the state of Missouri a course or courses of instruction or study...which grants certificates or earned or honorary degrees.” This item provides an overview of the program and provides highlights of the institutions in the sector, the certificates and degrees they offer, and the students they serve.

Initial standards for the establishment of the Proprietary School Certification Program were enacted in 1983. The central focus of the program has been consumer protection. This is accomplished through the implementation of standards related to school governance, administrative personnel, faculty qualifications, financial resources, program disclosures, and additional policies required to be provided to students upon request. Schools certified by the department agree to comply with these standards and to provide appropriate data for staff review and analysis.

Program staff are responsible for oversight activities of school operations to verify students are treated in a fair and equitable manner and receive education and training consistent with the published policies and objectives of the schools. Staff determine compliance through periodic on-site and desktop reviews of school operations allowing staff to provide technical assistance on regulatory issues. Additional oversight is maintained through the annual renewal process where institutions report on enrollments and completions, graduate employment, and the financial assistance awarded to students.

CURRENT STATUS

Schools

Program staff review three types of applications: certification to operate in Missouri, certification to recruit in Missouri, and exemption from certification standards. It should be noted staff review applications on a year-round basis, which may lead to inconsistencies in numbers of certifications or exemptions depending on the timeframe.

The number of schools currently certified or exempted in Missouri:

- 133 certified main institutions
- 14 certified branch institutions
- 14 recruit main institutions
- 1 recruit branch institution
- 336 CBHE-exempted institutions*

**Public, independent, and certain religious institutions are automatically exempted via statute and are not required to submit an application. All other categories must apply for exemption.*

Staff expect the number of Missouri locations to increase in FY 2023 due in part to the continued demand for nursing and allied health professionals in the wake of the pandemic, as well as the implementation of new federal regulations regarding commercial truck driving.

Programs

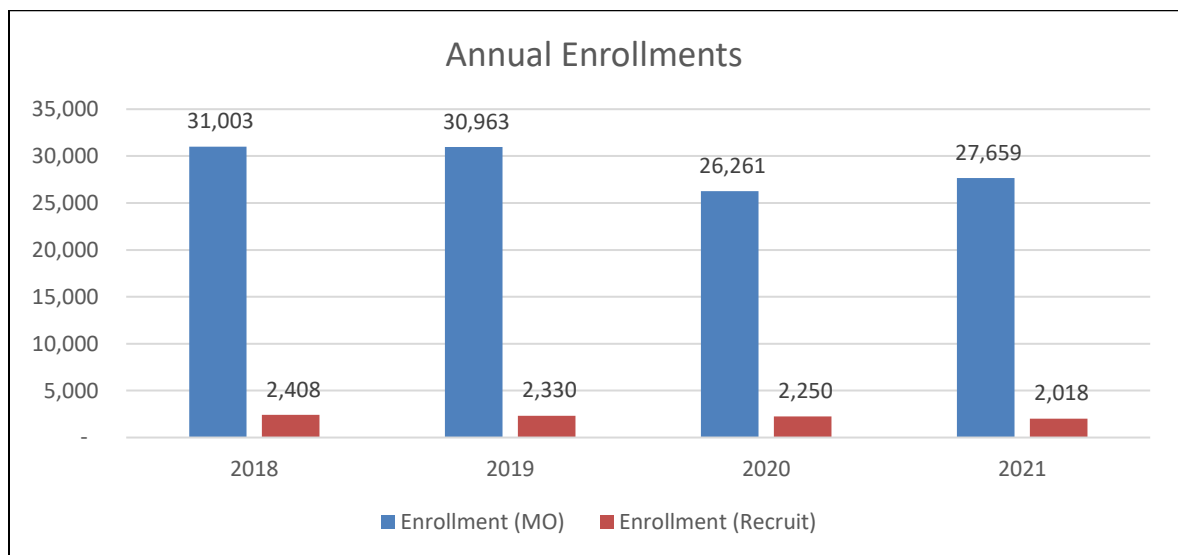
In FY 2022, certified schools offered 1,099 certificate and degree programs in different career sectors. The most numerous programs by 4-digit CIP Code were:

4-Digit CIP Code	Career Sector	# of Programs
11.10	Computer/Information Technology Administration and Management	73
49.02	Ground Transportation	67
51.38	Registered Nursing, Nursing Administration, Nursing Research and Clinical Nursing	65
48.07	Woodworking	59
32.01	Workforce / Basic Skills Development	58
51.08	Allied Health and Medical Assisting Services	50
51.07	Health and Medical Administrative Services	45
51.09	Allied Health Diagnostic, Intervention, and Treatment Professions	43
52.02	Business Administration, Management and Operations	43
51.06	Dental Support Services and Allied Professions	33

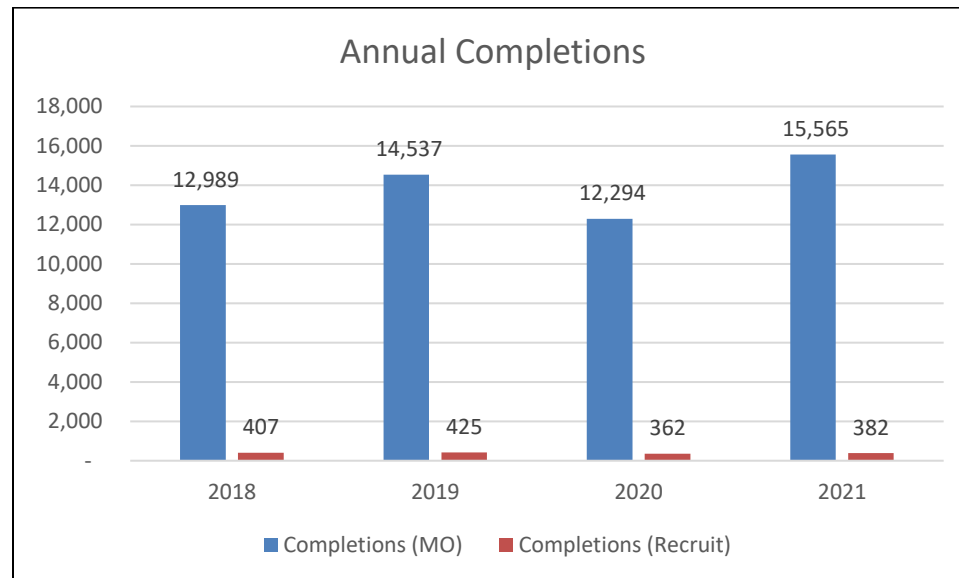
Of schools that received initial certification to operate in FY 2022, 69% of programs were in the Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences fields (CIP Code 51), and 54% were in the Transportation and Materials Moving fields (CIP Code 49).

Enrollments and Completions

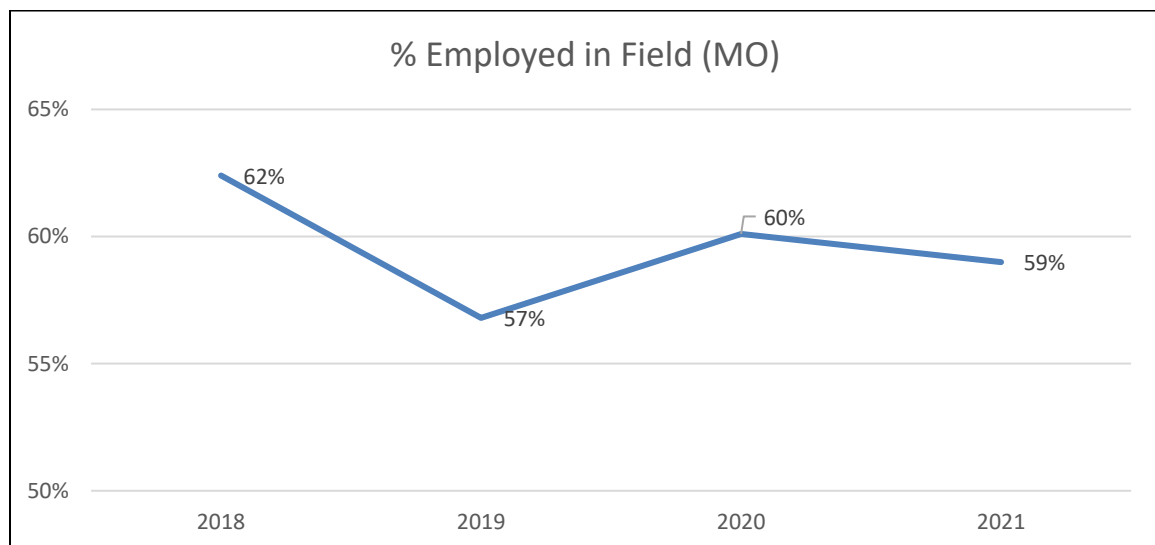
Although enrollments trended downward in recent years, in FY 2022, total headcount enrollment increased by five percentage points for Missouri-based institutions.



Annual completions were increasing through 2019 but may have been impacted due to the pandemic in 2020. Completions appear to have since rebounded and 2021 completions are the highest in the last five years.



The proportion of graduates from certified schools in Missouri finding employment in the field in which they trained decreased slightly in FY 2022.



NEXT STEPS

Proprietary School Certification program staff are actively engaged with institutions to ensure school officials have the appropriate tools to understand and abide by certification standards. Staff are also working on additional training materials, process improvements, and rule revisions to better accomplish the mission to provide adequate protection to Missouri students.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

NO ATTACHMENTS